



Legal Update

Data Protection Commission focus on Sports Clubs

The Data Protection Commission (the "DPC") in Ireland has announced a focus on sports clubs across a range of both voluntary and professional sports to investigate the extent of understanding of their data protection obligations and related compliance. The clubs under focus include those operating under the Football Association of Ireland ("FAI"), Irish Rugby Football Union ("IRFU"), Gaelic Athletic Association ("GAA"), and Ladies Gaelic Football Association ("LGFA").

Background:

As well as pursuing enforcement actions from time to time, the DPC issues guidance to assist organisations and individuals to understand their obligations under relevant legislation. The current focus on sporting organisations reflects the size and importance of sports organisations in Ireland. It has also been motivated by the increased use of technology used for capturing and storage of personal data of sports participants and the fact that many participants are children, a category of data subject which is subject to additional protections.

Current Action:

A survey has been sent to a range of clubs to gather information on their collection and use of personal data. This focuses in particular on the use of technology to collect and analyse player performance data, awareness of obligations in terms of data protection and communication regarding processing with data subjects including

players. With a view to determining transparency the questionnaire seeks detailed information on how data subjects are informed about the processing of their personal data, with a particular focus on children.

Next Steps

The DPC has stated that responses to its survey will facilitate it to better understand the needs of the sports sector thereby assisting it to prepare related focussed guidance and to facilitate further engagement with relevant stakeholders. It is anticipated that specific guidance for the sector will be issued by the DPC following its analysis of the data collected in this survey process.

How can Clerkin Lynch help?

The Data Protection Team in Clerkin Lynch can assist in advising organisations of their related legal obligations and assist in preparing required relevant documentation, including policies and procedures.



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